

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## TUNGSTEN IN JANUARY 2020

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January 2020 was 6% less than that reported during December 2019 and 24% less than the monthly average in 2019 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January 2020 was 13% less than that reported during December 2019 and 33% less than the monthly average in 2019 (table 3).

### Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, have remained unchanged since late October 2019. The January 2020 monthly average price for ammonium paratungstate was 11% lower than that in January 2019. Platts' weekly average prices for tungsten concentrates have remained unchanged since mid-December 2018. The

following prices for January 2020, in dollars per metric ton unit, were converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar:

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$276/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$250/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$287/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$260/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$240/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

High—\$276/metric ton unit WO<sub>3</sub> (\$250/short ton unit WO<sub>3</sub>)

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TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production <sup>p,4</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry <sup>p,2</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>		Producer <sup>p,5</sup>	U.S. Government <sup>3</sup>
2019:							
January	W	315	W	8,900	W	W	125
February	W	251	W	8,760	W	W	125
March	W	282	W	8,640	W	W	125
April	W	200	W	8,520	W	W	125
May	W	274	W	8,520	W	W	125
June	W	335	W	8,480	W	W	125
July	W	143	W	8,480	W	W	125
August	W	255	W	8,480	W	W	125
September	W	106	W	8,370	W	W	125
October	W	422	W	8,370	W	W	125
November	W	116	W	8,330	W	W	125
December	W	72	W	8,330	W	W	126
January–December	W	2,770	W	8,330	W	W	126
2020, January	W	189	W	8,240	W	W	125

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Reported by consumers; includes estimates.

<sup>3</sup>Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

<sup>4</sup>Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

<sup>5</sup>Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers; includes estimates.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total
2019	2,770	1,430	96	1,920	1,940	2,670	10,800
2020, January:							
Austria	--	--	--	--	4	1	5
Bolivia	84	--	--	--	--	--	84
Canada	--	--	--	16	30	1	46
China	--	14	--	103	42	74	233
Congo (Kinshasa)	10	--	--	--	--	--	10
France	--	--	--	4	(3)	(3)	4
Germany	--	--	--	3	2	12	17
Israel	--	--	--	36	--	(3)	36
Japan	--	--	--	5	1	9	15
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	23	--	(3)	23
Portugal	43	--	--	--	--	--	43
Russia	51	--	3	--	--	--	55
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	91	91
Ukraine	--	--	7	--	--	--	7
Vietnam	--	--	--	15	--	--	15
Other	1	--	--	(3)	(3)	1	2
Total	189	14	10	204	79	190	686

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes other unwrought tungsten, wrought tungsten, calcium and other tungstates, tungsten oxides, tungsten chlorides, other tungsten compounds, ash and residues containing mainly tungsten, and other mixtures of inorganic compounds containing tungsten. Tungsten content

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in January 2020 totaled 297 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of destination	Ores and concentrates <sup>2</sup>	Ammonium Tungstates	Metal powder <sup>2</sup>	Tungsten carbide powder	Other <sup>3</sup>	Total
2019	584	34	206	650	1,060	2,530
2020, January:						
Australia	--	--	(4)	8	--	8
Canada	--	--	8	9	2	19
China	--	--	(4)	5	3	8
Czechia	--	--	1	8	--	9
Germany	--	--	1	3	1	4
Hong Kong	--	--	2	3	(4)	5
Japan	--	--	(4)	--	4	4
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	(4)	3
Mexico	--	--	2	(4)	17	19
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	36	36
United Kingdom	--	--	1	2	1	4
Vietnam	15	--	--	--	--	15
Other	--	--	2	3	5	10
Total	15	--	17	42	68	143

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

<sup>3</sup>Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in January 2020 totaled 57 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.